

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 16 and 22 have been amended for clarification and to provide antecedent basis for the “alkaline developer composition”. No other amendments are presented.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112(2)

Claims 16-22 have been rejected as being indefinite for the lack of proper antecedent basis as noted above. The amendments to Claims 16 and 22 should overcome this rejection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 16-22 have been rejected as being anticipated by the teaching in US 2003/0207202 (Fujita et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges that the claimed invention is anticipated because Fujita et al. teaches high pH developers that possibly contain carbonate ions, and the various other optional components that are recited in Applicants' claims.

Applicants submit that the rejection is in error because Fujita et al. fails to teach the addition of a carbonate stabilizer to the already-formed high pH silicate-containing solution. Applicants would point out that their claims call for the addition of the stabilizer carbonates to an already formed solution, that is the solution formed in step (i). The carbonates and silicate are not used interchangeably or merely mixed at the same time as implied by Fujita et al. There is a sequence of actions required by Applicants' claimed invention and Fujita et al. fails to describe that sequence of steps, either explicitly or implicitly.

Thus, since this essential step of Applicants' claimed invention is not described in Fujita et al., it is novel over that reference and the rejection under Section 102(b) should be withdrawn.

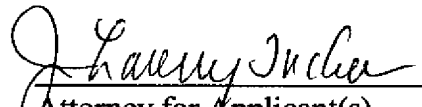
Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 16-22 have been rejected as being anticipated by the teaching in US 2004/0110090 (Patel et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

This rejection is in error for the same reasons given above in response to the rejection over Fujita et al. Nothing in Patel et al. describes a sequence of making up a high pH solution with silicates, and then adding the carbonate. Thus, Patel et al. does not anticipate the presently claimed invention and the rejection over Section 102(e) should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested. A prompt and favorable action by the examiner is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 27,678

J. Lanny Tucker/s-p
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: (585) 722-9332
Facsimile: (585) 477-1148

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.